

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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FOLTEL FM DEPT SENT ACTION ANKARA GENEVA NEW DELHI ISLAMABAD
AND KABUL 13 JUL 73 REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFO

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E.O. 11652: 4/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: OPIUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL USE

1. AP CARRIED FOLLOWING ITEM ON JULY 12 REGARDING PRESS
CONFERENCE THAT DATE BY ROBERT DUPONT; DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL
ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION (SAODAP): "THE
NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS REVIEWING ITS POLICY OF
DISCOURAGING OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION IN OTHER NATIONS,
AFTER A WARNING OF POSSIBLE WORLDWIDE SHORTAGES OF OPIATES
FOR MEDICAL USES. DR. ROBERT L. DUPONT, DIRECTOR OF
THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, TOLD A
NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY HE AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS
ARE RECONSIDERING THE POLICY. HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE
ON WHAT CHANGES ARE BEING STUDIED. DUPONT NOTED THAT
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AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES ARE PRODUCING

SYNTHETIC REPLACEMENTS FOR THE OPIATE, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OTHER NATIONS MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO BUY THE MORE EXPENSIVE SYNTHETICS.'

2. A UPI ITEM OF SAME DATE ALSO CARRIED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "DR. ROBERT DUPONT, DIRECTOR OF THE WHITE HOUSE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, ALSO ANNOUNCED AT HIS FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO REVIEW THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF ELIMINATION THE GROWTH OF THE OPIUM POPPY WHICH IS THE SOURCE OF HEROIN AND A MAJOR ECONOMIC FACTOR IN THE NATIONS INVOLVED. DUPONT REPLACED DR. JEROME JAFFE, WHO RESIGNED LAST MONTH."

3. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED IN CASE OF OFFICIAL OR PRESS INQUIRIES: "UNITED STATES COMPANIES WHICH IMPORT OPIUM FOR MANUFACTURE FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES REPORT DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES TO MEET CURRENT REQUIREMENTS. AN INTERAGENCY GROUP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW THE PROBLEM AND TO SEEK TO DETERMINE WHAT MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS ARE AND HOW THEY CAN BE MET. THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER STUDY AND NO CONCLUSIONS HAVE YET BEEN REACHED.

"THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN US GOVERNMENT OPIUM POLICY. US POLICY, AND IN FACT AN INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVE UNDER THE NARCOTICS TREATIES, REMAINS TO LIMIT THE PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN NARCOTIC DRUGS TO MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC USED. IT CONTINUES TO BE US POLICY TO COOPERATE INTERNATIONALLY TO SUPPRESS THE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC, TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF LEGAL PRODUCTION TO THE ILLICIT MARKET, AND TO ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNCONTROLLED PRODUCTION OF NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS.'

4. THE DEPARTMENT WILL USE THE ABOVE GUIDANCE IN REPLY TO ANY PRESS OR OTHER INQUIRIES HERE. RUSH UNQTE RUSH

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